STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

FORM 322

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Accident Investigation Report

Railroad

Investigated by Lewis R. Hall *on* 7/29 19 48 ☐ *Non-Fatal* ☒ *Fatal*

1. Employer of injured: Columbia Steel Co.
2. Address of employer: Pittsburg
3. Employer's insurance carrier: Self-insured
4. Name of injured: Joseph M. Thibodeaux
5. Address of injured: Knox Park, Apt. #163, Port Chicago, Calif.
6. How employed when injured: Switchman
7. Address—Place of injury: Receiving Track #1, Columbia Steel Co., Pittsburg
8. Date of injury: 7/27/48 Time 2:10 a.m. p.m.
9. Date of death: 7/27/48 Time 4:25 a.m. p.m.
10. Will accident result in a permanent disability? Fatal
11. Nature and extent of injury: Gross bodily injuries
12. Names and addresses of witnesses: Mr. Esaw Martin, Apt. 224, Columbia Park, Pittsburg; Mr. Sam O. Gibson, Apt. 121, 9th St., Antioch; Mr. Russel J. Shepard, 136 E. 15th St., Pittsburg
13. Was injury due to the violation of any order of the Division? No
14. How did accident occur and what precautions might have prevented it?

While switching with a diesel train on the storage track along the southern boundary of the plant, Mr. Thibodeaux noticed that the end car was not properly hitched to a train of four others and was left behind. He signalled the train to stop and walked to the rear of the fourth car to prepare its coupling for rehitching. Meanwhile, the car which was left behind, moved slowly forward due to a slight decline in the track. Mr. Martin, a switchman on a train on the next track, saw the car approaching and yelled to Mr. Thibodeaux to warn him, but Thibodeaux apparently did not hear and was caught between the couplings.

This accident could have been prevented had the switchman set the brakes on the car that was uncoupled. One of the Columbia Steel Co. operating rules for switchmen reads as follows:

"When cars are switched in on any down-grade tracks, brakes must be set on head end of cars".

The area is well lighted at night by flood lights.

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Lewis R. Hall C

c.c. ~~XXXXXX~~
Frank J. Burke
J. Wesley Gebb
M. I. Gershenson
Supervising Engineer
Coroner Kingston
Employer's File
L. A. Elevator File
S. F. Elevator File

A. C. ~~Blackman~~
C. E. Johnson
M. I. ~~Gershenson~~
Supervising Engineer
S. W. ~~Macdonald~~

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